**Opening of polytechnics**

†3585. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) for which States there is a provision to establish polytechnics during the Eleventh Five Year Plan alongwith their numbers;

(b) the names of districts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Orissa where there is a provision to establish polytechnics;

(c) by when polytechnics would be established in the concerned districts; and

(d) the effective steps Government is taking to establish polytechnics, so that there is no delay in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) A scheme has been formulated to provide financial assistance for establishment of new polytechnics in the districts which do not have any polytechnic as of now and also in underserved districts in the Country. These polytechnics will be established by State Governments in these districts. It is proposed that each district in the Country will be having a polytechnic by the end of 11th Plan Period.

**Mid-day meal for secondary classes**

3586. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is providing Mid-day Meals to the students of 6th, 7th and 8th classes in High schools of selected educationally backward blocks in the country;

(b) if so,the rationale for leaving out the 9th and 10 class students of the backward blocks, when they also require proper diet in the face of crucial exams in the 10th class, they also being from economically backward strata of the society;

(c) whether any steps have been mooted to include the students of 9th and 10th classes in the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Mid-day Meal Programme was extended to the upper primary stage of education i.e. classes (VI-VIII) in 3479 Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) with effect from 1.10.2007. From the current financial year, 2008-09, the programme will cover children studying in classes VI-VIII in all eligible schools/centers across the country. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to extend the programme to the secondary stage of education.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi